



The future of mobile phones

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CEFR B1-B2

Age 12-15

45-50 minutes

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Teacher's notes

Warm-up

1. Ask your learners the questions from exercise 1 at random.

Before you read

2. Ask your learners to read the features of mobile phones. Explain vocabulary if necessary. Then ask them to discuss the question in pairs. At the feedback stage, ask them if there are any other features which are important for them but which have not been listed.

Reading

3. Ask your learners to read the text quickly (in 2-3 minutes) and ask them to do the comprehension check individually. Then, tell them to compare the answers in pairs and conduct feedback.

1. The first mobile phone
2. Mobile phones in films
3. The most popular online applications
4. Battery performance in smartphones
5. The future of mobile phones





4. Read the text again and decide whether the statements are true or false.

1. The first mobile phone was too heavy to carry. **T**
2. Nokia 3310 was better than modern phones. **F**
3. Smartphones are becoming more and more popular because they can do the things that normal phones can't. **T**
4. Future mobile phones will be bigger in size than the phones we use now. **F**
5. Mobile phones that will use nanotechnology will have a number of unusual features. **T**



Mobile phones - past, present and future

Modern mobile phones take photos, access the internet, check emails, store music, videos and games. They are the world's most common gadget owned by people. Interestingly, the patent for a mobile phone was issued in 1908 but it was nearly eighty years later when it became really popular.

The first automatic mobile phone system was developed by Ericsson in Sweden in 1956 with the phone that weighed 40 kilos! Ten years later, Ericsson managed to reduce the size of the phone and the new model was 'only' about 9 kilos. The first mobile phone that was available commercially was Motorola DynaTAC. It offered 30 minutes of talk time and cost 4,000 dollars. It was the first phone that could be carried around easily, without having to use a briefcase to put the phone in. Since then, the mobile phone industry has been developing rapidly.

Mobile phones have made regular film appearances. Motorola's MicroTAC introduced in 1989 featured a flip - perfect for creating suspense in thrillers. The main character would close the flip and remain silent thinking what to do next... Nokia 8110, also known as *Banana Phone*, appeared in the movie *The Matrix* and became a real bestseller.

Many phones reached cult status. One of the most famous phones ever released was Nokia 3310, also known as *the brick*, mainly because it seemed indestructible. There is a joke that compares this phone with modern smartphones: if a smartphone falls to the floor, the screen breaks, but if the Nokia 3310 falls to the floor, the floor breaks.

Nowadays, however, it is smartphones that are gradually replacing ordinary mobile phones. A phone is no longer just a phone. It has to be able to access the internet, store lots of music and video, or check emails. And a big screen is what matters the most. But what about the future of mobile phones? Mobile phone networks will move data at several megabits per second. Another development we are likely to see is the flexible screen. Just imagine rolling out the screen from your phone to the size of a laptop's screen and then rolling it back so it fits in your pocket. Or wearing a phone as if it was a watch or a bracelet that can be customized to look the way you want. Our telephones may use highly advanced technologies allowing your phone to perform such actions as cleaning itself or scanning the food for toxins. With nanotechnology, the options are endless. And these technologies are being developed now, so we are likely to see them in future phones.



Vocabulary

5. Ask your learners to do the matching activity. Then ask them to check in pairs and conduct feedback.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. indestructible | too strong to be destroyed |
| 2. customized | changed to make more suitable or special |
| 3. gadget | a small, useful and cleverly-designed machine or tool |
| 4. rapidly | very quickly and in a very short time |
| 5. replacing | starting to be used instead of another thing |
| 6. suspense | a feeling of excitement when you do not know what will happen next |
| 7. reduce | make smaller |
| 8. flexible | can bend or be bent easily |
| 9. matters | is important |
| 10. flip | a flat part that turns over |

Speaking

6. Before you ask your learners to discuss the statements, do the brainstorming activity and ask them the following:

1. Can you list all the features of modern mobile phones? Which of them are useful, and which are not?
2. Why are mobile phones banned from the classroom?
3. Do you use your phone while learning English? How does it help you?
4. Do you use your mobile phone more often than your computer? Why/Why not?



As the learners are answering your questions, note down some of their answers on the board. This may help them while discussing the questions in pairs. After the discussion, conduct feedback.

Extra activity

Towards the end of the lesson you may ask your learners to work in groups and design the mobile phone of their dreams. Ask them to think of the design, colour, size, weight, battery performance and features. When they have finished, ask each group to give a mini-presentation.